GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:728
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Use of Forest Land
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being run by the Government regarding use of forest land;
(b) whether the Government is considering to produce green fodder with the help of local Gram Panchayats or self-help groups on forest land to provide fodder to cattle-rearers at reasonable rates;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government is taking steps to assist the State Government in producing green fodder on forest land, pastures and other lands and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is supporting State Forest Departments through Centrally sponsored Schemes like National Afforestation Programme(NAP) and Green India Mission(GIM) for Eco restoration of degraded Forest lands , Project Tiger for conservation of tigers and their habitat, Project Elephant for conservation of elephants and their habitat, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats(IDWH) scheme for eco restoration of wildlife habitats outside protected areas and Intensification of Forest Management (IFMS) scheme for activities ancillary to forest management. The State Forest Departments take up soil conservation and eco restoration works on forest lands under Watershed development Schemes, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS) and state sector schemes.

(b)&(c)Enrichment and development of grasses and forbs is an integral part of ecosystem based forest management practiced in the country. NAP and GIM are implemented through Joint Forest Management Committees(JFMC) which are local village committees . A Memorandum of Understanding between Forest Departmentand JFMC is outlinedto carry out plantation and protection of the forest area jointly and JFMCs are entitled to get usufruct benefits from the forest area managed under JFM.
(d) NAP and GIM have components as ecorestoration of grasslands and development of Pasture / Silvipasture. It aims at increasing the fodder availability for the local community. Under National Livestock Mission of Ministry of agriculture one of the sub-missions on Fodder and Feed Development has a component of Fodder production from Forest land which provides Central assistance to the States in ratio of 60:40 (Central Share: State Share) and 90:10(Central Share: State Share in case of North −Eastern States, Jammu& Kashmir and Uttarakhand) for production of suitable grasses, legumes and fodder trees on forest lands.
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